

IDENTIFICATION OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL LOADS USING A LIFE CYCLE APPROACH

Jacob Madsen and Michael Collins, ERM Ltd., Eaton House, Wallbrook Court, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford OX2 0QS, United Kingdom. Jacob.Madsen@erm.com and Michael.collins@erm.com

Terry Coleman, Strategic Waste and Resource Manager, UK Environment Agency, Block 1, Government Buildings, Burghill Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS10 6BF, United Kingdom. Terry.Coleman@environment-agency.gov.uk

The Environment Agency for England and Wales has initiated a study using input/output (I/O) analysis with life cycle assessment to assist in prioritising the environmental regulation of sectors and industries with significant improvement potential. The study will be based on the existing UK National Accounts (I/O) Matrix extended with Environmental Accounts (NAMEA). The current NAMEA is insufficient for regulation purposes mainly because of a high level of aggregation and a limited amount of environmental exchanges. Therefore NAMEA has been extended by disaggregating important industries and by including a wider range of emissions and resource uses for each sector. This extended NAMEA allows industries with significant environmental impacts to be selected. Subsequently, detailed analysis using LCA will be applied to the most important industries generating detailed LCI and LCA results for each life cycle stage of the sectors and industries in the UK economy with the highest potential environmental impact.